

15-year high; border facilities are 1,700 percent over capacity; 5,000 illegal aliens crossing the border have prior criminal records.

Mr. Biden recently named KAMALA HARRIS as a crisis manager for the border crisis he created.

Under her watch, the problem has gotten dramatically worse. Over 172,000 illegal-alien apprehensions have occurred, including 20,000 unaccompanied minors taken into custody in March—the highest monthly total in the history of the United States, and it is much greater.

The situation is charitably called a disaster. This needs to stop. We need order restored to the border and we need faithful execution of existing Federal laws.

To date, Mr. Biden has not responded to my invitation. Therefore, I stand on the House floor today to re-invite Mr. Biden and Ms. HARRIS to visit Yuma to see what my constituents are experiencing from this historical surge of illegal-alien border crossings.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the fourth annual Black Maternal Health Week.

As the founder and co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, I want to take this time to speak briefly about the Black maternal health crisis in America, where Black mamas are disproportionately and needlessly dying.

Across the country, Black women from all walks of life are dying from preventable pregnancy-related complications at three and four times the rate of non-Hispanic, White women. However, 60 percent of Black maternal deaths are preventable.

Research suggests that the cumulative stress of racism and sexism undermines Black women's health, making them more vulnerable to complications that endanger their lives and the lives of their infants. Unfortunately, current healthcare practices are inadequate in addressing the health consequences of living with stress.

The Black Maternal Omnibus Act of 2021, a package of 12 bills, will comprehensively address every dimension of the maternal health crisis in America to save lives and end racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes.

This crisis demands urgent attention and serious action to save the lives of Black mothers, women of color, and other marginalized women across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and this Congress to stand together with me to ensure that our mothers

and babies have the resources they need not only to survive but to thrive. Black mamas can't wait, and neither will we.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ZIGGY WILINSKI

(Mr. ZELDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ziggy Wilinski, who recently lost his battle with pancreatic cancer.

A Vietnam War veteran and USPS postmaster and general manager, Ziggy loved our country and community more than anything. Ziggy was an icon in the town of Riverhead, which boasts a large Polish-American population.

You could often find Ziggy planning and organizing events at the Riverhead Polish Hall, which was used to gather the community for parties, performances, and other gatherings. He was also instrumental in planning and organizing the iconic annual Riverhead Polish Town Festival. Speaking from experience, it is a fantastic event that draws thousands of people every year.

Thank you to Ziggy, his wife, Wanda, and his entire family for their service to our community. Ziggy was a great guy. He will be greatly missed, but I have no doubt his legacy will live on for generations to come.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LA SOUFRIERE VOLCANO

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, on April 9, La Soufriere volcano on the Caribbean Island of St. Vincent began a series of explosive eruptions. The volcano has erupted several times since that date.

The eruptions have blanketed the island nation with clouds of volcanic ash and hot gas and are so large that they have reached the neighboring island of Barbados, 110 miles away. The eruption has resulted in the evacuation of tens of thousands of people.

Electric outages, destroyed crops and forests, wildlife killed, and water shortages are some of the immediate issues. The 16,000 evacuated residents present dire health issues as people are moved to congregant areas in a community that has had very little vaccination to date.

This natural disaster, along with other struggles brought on by COVID, will cause St. Vincent and the Grenadines to struggle for the next few years. It presents an opportunity for American action with humanitarian disaster relief, support for COVID vaccinations, and future technical assistance.

I am asking this body to use its influence and legislative actions to support

St. Vincent, to keep out China and its influence, along with Venezuela, in support of our brothers and sisters.

CONGRATULATING COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CHEERLEADING TEAM

(Ms. MACE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege to present congratulatory remarks to the College of Charleston cheerleading team on their historic weekend, winning their first national championship.

For the first time in school and program history, the College of Charleston cheerleaders won first place, under the direction of their head coach, Samantha Pairet, who stands as an exemplary leader of young athletes in South Carolina and around the country.

The team traveled to Daytona April 7 through 10 to compete in the Intermediate Small Coed Division I performance division, where they received a score of 94.23 and were crowned the Intermediate Small Coed Division I national champions. Way to go, Cougars.

MAKING EQUAL PAY A REALITY

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

This morning, women across America drove to jobs where they will be paid lower salaries for equal work. Today, Black women make 63 cents and Hispanic women make 55 cents for every dollar earned by a White man. Over a lifetime, that gap grows to \$400,000, enough to pay off the mortgage and put two kids through college.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will not fix the systemic racism and sexism that are embedded in our Nation's treatment of women, but it will take us a step closer to making equal pay a reality.

I am proud to be voting, once again, to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. I am calling on all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me and pass this long-overdue bill into law.

SECURING OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the current crisis at our southern border.

In March, unlawful border crossings reached their highest level in 15 years. This includes nearly 19,000 unaccompanied minors, which represents a 99

percent increase from February and the highest figure ever recorded.

This is a dangerous humanitarian, health, and security crisis that warrants immediate action.

I am particularly concerned about these children, Mr. Speaker. As the President of Mexico recently confirmed, this administration's policies and speeches on this subject have convinced families that they can send their children to the United States in search of a better life.

Yet, we know that the situation is often dire for these children. Human traffickers made an estimated \$14 million per day along the border in the month of February alone.

Shortly, I will be joining my colleagues to visit the border and speak directly to our Border Patrol agents firsthand about their experiences.

I look forward to sharing that insight with my constituents. However, we already know that there is unprecedented disorder at the border, and immediate action is needed. We must secure our border immediately.

TAKING ACTION TO CLOSE PAY GAP

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

On average, women are paid just 82 cents for every dollar paid to men. The gap is even larger, almost double, for women of color. Compounded over a lifetime, the pay gap becomes a wealth tax, costing women thousands and thousands of dollars in lost wages.

Longstanding workplace discrimination sets women back in pay, benefits, hiring, and promotions. Closing the pay gap will provide more financial stability for women, especially those who are hardest hit by the pandemic.

At a recent Oversight and Reform Committee hearing on Equal Pay Day, soccer superstar Megan Rapinoe testified: "One cannot simply outperform inequality."

Combating pay discrimination requires deliberate action, and that is what the Paycheck Fairness bill does. I urge a "yes" vote on this important bill.

REMEMBERING U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM EVANS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of U.S. Capitol Police Officer William Evans.

This week, we pay our respects to Officer Evans' life of service as he was remembered with a congressional tribute and lying in honor in the United States Capitol rotunda.

Officer Evans was a beloved father, husband, brother, son, and friend.

He was a dedicated officer, joining the U.S. Capitol Police on March 7, 2003, and servicing for 18 years. In addition to patrolling the north barricade, Officer Evans was a member of the Capitol Division's First Responder's Unit.

Officer Evans was a member of our Capitol family, and I want to send my heartfelt condolences to the Evans family for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, let's take this time to remember Officer Evans and to thank each and every member of U.S. Capitol Police and National Guard members here on the Capitol Grounds for their continued service to keep us safe.

SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH EQUAL PAY

(Mr. KAHELE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of all women across the Nation, to ensure they will be paid fairly based on their work performance, not their gender.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed with three young daughters. My oldest daughter, 'Ale'aokalani, who, as we speak, is studying at Juan Diego High School in Draper, Utah, is preparing to embark on her own journey as a grown woman. She is smart, talented, and, most of all, a hard worker.

But right now, in our country, she and my two younger daughters are faced with insurmountable odds that no amount of hard work or diligence can overcome. As Native Hawaiian women, they are estimated to only make 63 cents to every dollar that their White male peers would make working the exact same job.

The Paycheck Fairness Act guarantees they will no longer have to fight for the same rights and paychecks as men.

Mr. Speaker, equal pay for equal work, it is as simple as that.

RECOGNIZING HEROIC ACTIONS OF U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Last month, the U.S. Marshals Service issued this press release: In an ongoing joint operation known as Operation Homecoming, the U.S. Marshals, in coordination with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and other Iowa agencies, have located 21 missing Iowa children between the ages of 4 and 17 since October 2020.

As a mother, I cannot begin to imagine the heartache the families of these children have endured, but thanks to the U.S. Marshals Service and other

agencies tasked with finding missing and exploited children, these 21 children have finally been brought home.

I would like to thank Deputy Marshal Christopher Siemens, U.S. Marshal Doug Strike, and the more than 50 local task forces that are working to return Iowa children home to their families.

Speaking of missing and exploited children, it cannot go without saying that, for missing and exploited children, know what is happening at our border is a travesty. I want to thank Customs and Border Protection agents for all they are doing to try to reunite these children and get them safely to their end result. But it should not continue as the U.S. Federal Government, under this administration, is engaged in a human smuggling operation.

BLOCKING PROPERTY WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIED HARMFUL FOREIGN ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-29)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CORREA) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation.

I have determined that specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation—in particular, efforts to undermine the conduct of free and fair democratic elections and democratic institutions in the United States and its allies and partners; to engage in and facilitate malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and its allies and partners; to foster and use transnational corruption to influence foreign governments; to pursue extraterritorial activities targeting dissidents or journalists; to undermine security in countries and regions important to United States national security; and to violate well-established principles of international law, including respect for the territorial integrity of states—constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 15, 2021.